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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
4 March 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Intelligence)
SUBJECT: Afro-Asian Conference Developments

Indian Prime Minister Nehru has joined the ranks of those who hope the Bandung conference will not develop into a political free-for-all. He told the Indian parliament recently that meeting would be neither agitational nor controversial, but rather an "experiment in coexistence."

Meanwhile, President Sukarno of Indonesia stated in a public address on 28 February that the Afro-Asian conference will be the greatest undertaking of this generation. He also expressed optimism over its outcome since there were, in his view, many considerations upon which all conferees could agree, particularly in the matter of eliminating colonialism.

2 Reports from the Middle East indicate that Arab representatives will press complaints against the French in north Africa as well as against Israel. Iraq is expected to call for a resolution demanding implementation of the UN resolution on Palestine and another condemning French north African policies. The Libyan prime minister has indicated concern that the continued presence of French troops in Fezzan might jeopardize his pro-Western position. He feels that if the Communists should raise the issue he could hardly discuss it without being maneuvered into a position of appearing to side with anti-Western sentiment. Ambassador Tappin commented that although the prime minister was obviously bargaining for US-UK pressure on France, he is "genuinely unhappy" over the prospect of such a situation developing at Bandung.

The American embassy in Baghdad reports that Dr. Fadhil Jamali will head the Iraqi delegation. Jamali, a former premier and foreign minister, earned his doctorate at Colombia University and is regarded as being strongly pro-West. He is also a fervent Arab nationalist and has often bitterly denounced Israel and the French in north Africa. In contrast, the Jordanian representatives are expected to be led by Foreign Minister Salah, a rather weak individual who will probably follow the lead of Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

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As of 4 March, 27 countries have indicated an intention to attend. The remaining three are Yemen, the Gold Coast and the Central African Federation.

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